



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Vol. 1. No. 3

231 King's Highway East

September, 1958

## **MANY BENEFITS PLANNED FOR MEMBERS AS NEW HEADQUARTERS DRIVE BEGINS**

An all-out community effort to acquire historic Greenfield Hall at 343 King's Highway East as the new, larger headquarters for the Historical Society of Haddonfield begins this week with a drive for membership pledges which will insure the maintenance of the new headquarters.

The purchase of Greenfield Hall is made possible by the sale of property owned by the Society to the Borough which is needed for the expansion of the Haddonfield Library plus the monies to be realized by the eventual sale of the present Historical Society building.

Mr. Herbert R. Leicht, president of the Society, emphasized at a recent meeting of the new headquarters committee that the acquisition of Greenfield Hall, one of the finest and most historically interesting homes in South Jersey, offers a rare opportunity to advance the cultural life of the entire community.

Mr. Leicht outlined the many cultural and educational benefits which the new larger headquarters would make possible.

"Greenfield Hall has the prestige and spaciousness to attract important permanent and loan exhibits," he said. "Because of its finer facilities, we are

## **MEMBERSHIP PLEDGES WILL ASSURE MAINTENANCE OF GREENFIELD HALL**

*(A letter to members and non-members  
from Herber. R. Leicht, President)*

Dear Friends:

Beautiful Greenfield Hall can be a reality as your Historical Society headquarters if you will lend this worthy goal your assistance.

We need only know that you will pledge any of the three memberships listed below to be able to move ahead toward the purchase of this new, larger headquarters. Based on the experience of other societies, the facilities of Greenfield Hall, which enable us to plan a more interesting and valuable program for the entire community, will undoubtedly attract more members in the future and therefore insure the continuing support of these headquarters.

But right now we need the help of all those in the community who cherish the traditions of Haddonfield and wish to perpetuate them.

We are not asking for money at the present time. We are asking for your pledge as an indication of your support when the acquisition of Greenfield Hall is consummated.

The Society is offering three types of membership. The amount indicates a yearly pledge for a three year period. These memberships are:

**Contributing Membership:**

\$25.00 per couple per year

**Sustaining Membership:**

\$10.00 per couple per year

**Single Membership: \$5.00 per year**

This plan will raise the single membership

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued on page 2)*

also planning to schedule forums of historical interest which will be of value to members, non-members and school children in this area. Greenfield Hall is a fitting place to build a historic library not only on local history but on state history which can become a fine reference source for schools, scholars and amateur historians.

"This educational opportunity for children in the entire community will be expanded to include children's courses on subjects of historical and antiquarian interest.

"It has been the experience of other historical societies that greater display possibilities attract gifts of museum pieces and legacies thus increasing the importance and value of the Society for future generations.

"The purchase of Greenfield Hall will also provide a splendid meeting place for regular meetings of the Historical Society which now must be held outside of headquarters. This will give members and guests an opportunity to see the newest acquisitions of the Society while attending meetings.

"For the first time in the history of the Society, social events to attract new members and make membership more interesting and convivial can be planned with the ample kitchen and dining area facilities provided at Greenfield Hall. This is one of the most attractive functions of other historical societies. Teas, dinners and Christmas parties have been used to draw large attendances and raise funds for the needs of these headquarters."

Mr. Leicht also emphasized the fact that the new headquarters would serve other organizations by providing attractive meeting rooms and a place for special local events.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### A PRACTICAL MOVE

Some persons have expressed concern over the cost of purchasing Greenfield Hall for the new Society headquarters. Here are a few facts which show the practicability of moving to this new home: Present headquarters are totally inadequate for a fully active Historical Society which will attract new members and offer worthwhile programs to existing members. The need for larger headquarters has long been seen. One alternative to purchasing Greenfield Hall would be to build entirely new headquarters. At today's building costs, the Society would get a great deal less in space, facilities and value for its money than it would in purchasing an existing property.

Another alternative would be to build an annex at the rear of the present Society Headquarters. This, too, would be costly and limited in space. Such an annex would hardly add to the prestige of the Society nor attract the valuable exhibits which the Society expects to secure in providing a fitting place for them.

dues of the Society from \$2.00 to \$5.00 but members will be more than compensated by a more active and more rewarding Society.

As much as we dislike rushing anyone we would like to have your pledge before October 10. By that time we must advise the present owners of Greenfield Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Bauer, what our decision is. These neighbors have generously offered their home for sale to the Historical Society in preference to placing it on the open market - and at a lower cost. They have waited several years for the Society to acquire the means to make this purchase but they must have a decision by October so they can go ahead with their own plans.

Won't you fill in and mail the enclosed self-addressed envelope at your earliest convenience and won't you pledge as much as you possibly can? Your pledge will not only help preserve the best traditions of Haddonfield but will add a new cultural center which we believe will greatly benefit every Haddonfield family.

Herbert R. Leicht, President.

**FILL IN AND MAIL YOUR PLEDGE TODAY. THE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR DECISION BY OCTOBER 10.**

## INTERIOR PLAN OF 12-ROOM MANSION IDEAL FOR SOCIETY HEADQUARTERS



GREENFIELD HALL is the original name for "Boxwoods," the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Bauer. When it becomes the new Historical Society headquarters it will be called by the name which was associated with its earliest history. One of its most beautiful original architectural features is the lattice-louvered doorway. Another is the exterior brick which the family history records "were pressed by the skill of the cunning workman nicely fitted together that the joints could hardly be seen."

"If we had planned Greenfield Hall specifically for our Society headquarters we couldn't have arrived at a better interior arrangement than now exists in this fine Georgian residence." This is the observation of members of the new headquarters committee who have envisioned the use of each of the twelve rooms of Greenfield Hall when its pur-

chase is realized.

Because of this suitability to the Society's activities, the cost of conversion will be negligible. There is a huge basement area which lends itself perfectly to meetings of every size. On the first floor there are four spacious rooms—two on each side of a center hall

*(Continued on page 4)*



*(Continued from page 2)*

Serving as chairman of the new headquarters committee is Mr. Edwin J. Pearson, a vice-president of the Society, who pointed out that the acquisition of Greenfield Hall would perpetuate the tradition of Haddonfield. "Otherwise," he said, "this property which is on the site of the scene of Haddonfield hospitality bestowed on Count Donop on the night before the fateful Battle of Red Bank during the Revolutionary War, will pass on to unknown hands and may be marked for changes far from harmonious to Haddonfield.

"As new headquarters for the Historical Society," he said, "it will add immeasurable prestige and cultural advantages to a town already noted for these traditions."

*(Continued from page 3)*

plus a kitchen, laundry and a "little room," the oldest in the house. The rooms downstairs will be used as main exhibit rooms.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a powder room. The bedrooms will be converted to library rooms. They will house historical collections and provide space for study and research.

There is one large room on the third floor which can be used for storage or other purposes. The house is already equipped with efficient hot water heat,

oil-fueled, and is otherwise in excellent condition.

A charming boxwood garden in the rear was started soon after the Revolutionary War. It is here that members of the Society look forward to outdoor meetings, teas, etc.

As reported in a previous Bulletin, Greenfield Hall was from its earliest days noted for its hospitality. The present house was built in 1844 by John Gill 4th and his wife Sarah Hopkins, descendent of Ebenezer Hopkins who was nephew and heir of Elizabeth Haddon.

The house was built on the foundation of the home which John Gill's grandfather had erected. It was the third house to be built on this site.

The fine trees on King's Highway in front of Greenfield Hall were planted by John Gill 3rd and his son John Gill 4th.

### The Historical Society of Haddonfield

The purpose of the Society is to encourage historical study and research, to perpetuate the historical heritage of Haddonfield and to acquire and preserve articles of historical and antiquarian interest.

Mrs. James G. Aiken, Editor  
Historical Society Bulletin

Send all editorial contributions to:  
120 Warwick Road  
Haddonfield, N. J.